

focus



Furrough Cross United Reformed Church

Dec 2022 / Jan 2023



Radiant Lord

Like a candle flame,
flickering small in our
darkness;

Uncreated light,
shines through infant eyes.

God is with us, Alleluia!
Come to save us, Alleluia,
Alleluia!

Graham Kendrick © 1988 Make Way Music

**May you have the
gift of faith, the
blessing of hope
and the peace of
love at Christmas.**





ALICE 100 NOT OUT!

It was wonderful to have Alice in church the Sunday after her 100th birthday!

She expressed her gratitude to all her church friends, and made a very generous gift to support the work of Messy Church.

But we have had sad times since the last magazine came out, with news of the passing of Marcella Board (age 98), Joan Neville (98), and most recently both Janet and Brian Williams (80 and 85). Our love, thoughts and prayers are with all their families.

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”



Janet Williams

Brian Williams

EDITORIAL

Roy Cadoux

I finally got my Covid booster recently. I hardly felt the jab, but the next morning when I woke up I could feel a what seemed to be a significant hard swelling through my pyjamas. I checked the vaccine's side effects and a lump was not one of them, so I began to get worried. It was strange because I didn't feel anything when I pressed on it. It wasn't until I got up and got dressed that I remembered that the nurse had put on a wad of cotton wool under a plaster! I learnt again not to jump to conclusions without fully checking the facts.



The autumn weather hasn't been very conducive to getting out and about, but I squeezed in visits to Dartmouth Castle and to the SEE Monster on Weston-super-Mare beach (an old oil rig you could climb up - see picture), and did two walks: a level one along the Grand Western Canal from Tiverton, and a very arduous up-and-down route along the coastal path from Torcross along Saplton Sands to Dartmouth.

The next magazine will be in February, with a deadline for items of 15th January. Please let me have your news, thoughts, views, anything! Thanks to Beryl Navarro for some of the photos in this issue.

Roy Cadoux

roy.cadoux@gmail.com

FROM A LOCAL FACEBOOK PAGE:

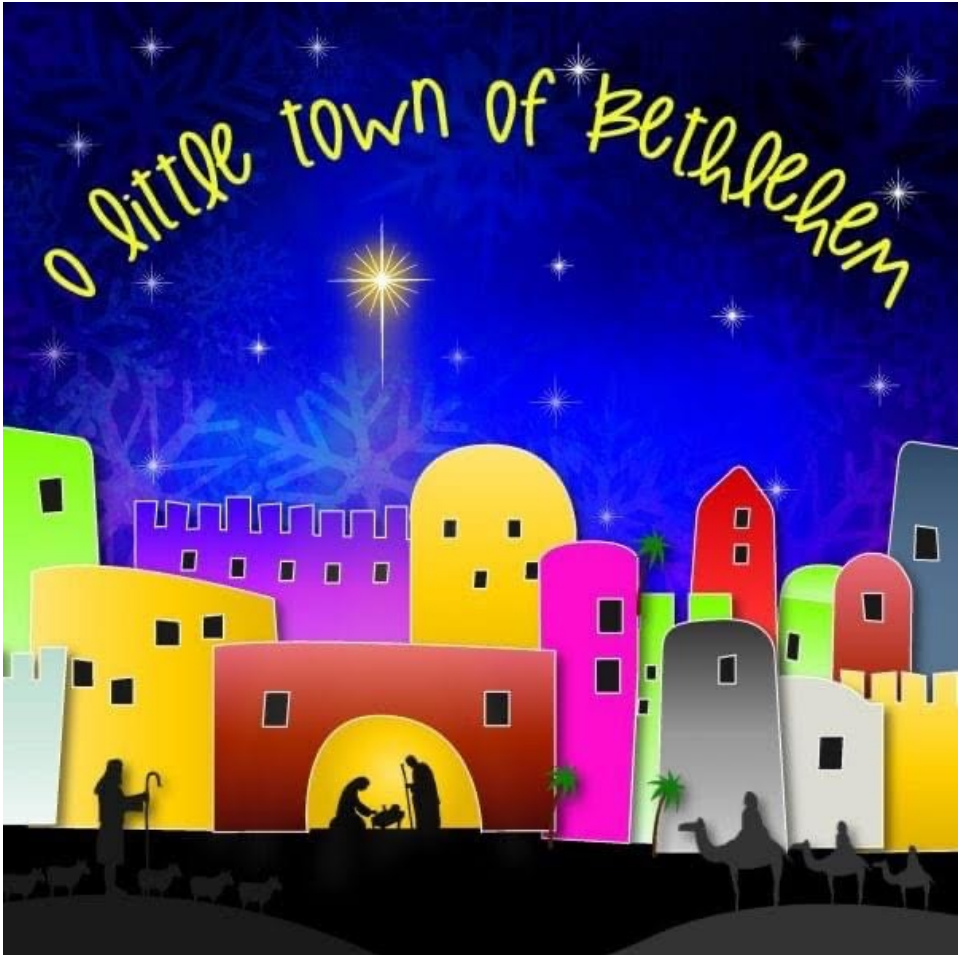


Christmas Appeal for Bulgaria

9 h · 🌐

This is the lovely Pam Meaden who organises Christmas stockings from [Furrough Cross United Reformed Church](#) in Torquay every year. This year they collected 36 stockings 🙌. You guys are amazing, Thank you so much 💕💕💕





Please see the back page for details of services and special church activities in December.

Val Elms wishes her church family a truly blessed and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. She is not sending local cards but would like to send warmest greetings and share these thoughts by John Wesley for the New Year:

**Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the time you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.**

Website: furroughcross.org **Find us on Facebook:** [furroughcross](https://www.facebook.com/furroughcross)

Minister: Rev. Heather Cadoux (01803) 310156
e-mail: revheathercadoux@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Mr Steve Casselden 07521 313864

Hall Steward: Mrs Ann Close (for hall bookings only)
(01803) 324080
email: annclose49@gmail.com

Junior Church and Messy Church Leader:
Miss Shirley Leaman

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services and Junior Church: Sundays at 10.30 am. Communion on 1st Sunday of each month.

Midweek Worship: Wednesdays at 2.30 pm.

Messy Church: 2nd Friday of each month (not August) 4 to 6 pm.

Friday Coffee: Every Friday 10.00 - 12.00; **Warm Space** till 2pm.

Bereavement and Friendship Group: 4th Thursday of each month, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm, in conjunction with the local Community Builders.

First Friday Film: 1st Friday of each month. Film starts at 2.30pm.

Opinions and views expressed in this magazine may be personal and not necessarily accord with those of the Minister and Elders of Furrough Cross United Reformed Church. Care is taken over the accuracy of the information presented but the Church and Elders cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. The Editor reserves the right to edit or omit material submitted.

FROM THE MINISTER

Rev Heather Cadoux

Dear Friends,

I'm wondering where this year has gone! With the First Sunday in Advent we begin the church's year, as we prepare and wait in Advent for Christmas to arrive and rejoice as we remember the birth of Jesus - a promise of new life for each of us. Though as I write this, we are on tenterhooks waiting for the new Chancellor's autumn statement. The press build-up seems to be full of doom and gloom. Prices are increasing and things I used to pop in my shopping bag each week are staying on the shelves as I begrudge paying the increase for something that, if I'm honest, I can easily do without. The state of the economy and the energy price increases that have happened or are in the pipeline make that gloom grow darker.



From what I hear and read, people are reluctant to put on their heating because of the cost. I suspect that like me most of you grew up in homes without central heating, and at certain times of the year drew back the curtains of a morning to discover that Jack Frost had visited and left wonderful icy patterns on the inside of the windows. Back then vests were worn along with cardigans and jumpers that grew in thickness and number as the weather became colder. Although for much of the week it was only the living room that was heated, and I needed to pop a hot water bottle in my bed before I went to sleep, I don't remember being cold, there was comforting food that gave us the calories we needed to keep warm.

So what can we do as Christians to make a difference? One thing is to pray. **Pray** for those in authority having to make tough decisions and that those decisions will be for the benefit of those who are struggling to make ends meet. Another thing we can do is **act**, which is just what we did at a special church meeting after a Sunday service in late October. The church agreed to extend the opening hours of the coffee morning until 2pm, as a warm space and to offer soup or a simple lunch.

'**Warm spaces**' mean that people can go somewhere during the day where they can find warmth and possibly refreshments. We are offering

a space where people can come, find friendship and maybe an activity or two without charge. We have a sign that says refreshments are provided free of charge, though you may make a donation if you wish. We are hoping to receive a grant towards our costs from Torbay Council – the application has been submitted and we are waiting to hear the result. At the moment it's Roy and I who are ensuring that the warm space is staffed from 12 noon. We need others to join us, and if you are able to help either regularly or now and again please speak to Roy. We have had some amazing conversations with people who have dropped in, including from one person who is hoping to move back to Torquay and has offered their services as a volunteer once they move back. Donations for the warm space are very welcome, either pop along and put it in the donation plate on a Friday or let myself or Roy have it and we'll do it for you.

I began with Advent and Christmas and I'll close with them. I'll be putting my **Advent book box** out again, so feel free to take a book to read over the Advent period as you prepare for Christmas.

Roy and I are opening our home for **Christmas Cheer at the Manse** on Saturday 10th December between 10 and 12 and 2 to 5, for anyone who would like to drop in for tea, coffee and festive nibbles. Our famous hot spiced apple juice will also be available. All church members and friends are invited, everyone is welcome, and if you need a lift let us know.

On the side table in church there are **Christmas activity posters** (similar to the one on the back page) with details of our Christmas services. Please take one if you can display one in your car or on a notice board if you live in a block of flats. We can get posters to you if you can't get to church, or can email a PDF if you have access to a colour printer. Posters are available as A4 or A5.

Hopefully Christmas this year will be a little more normal than the past two have been, and I hope that you will be able to share some of it with family and friends.

Wishing you love, joy and peace for Christmas and the coming year.

Heather

FAMILY NEWS

Betty fell and broke her leg; as we write she is in Derriford Hospital in Plymouth, though it is hoped to move her to Torbay at some point. Her daughter has suggested that if you wish to send cards or letters send them to her home and her daughter will make sure her mum gets them. Please remember our friend Pauline in your prayers, and we give thanks that Alice has recovered well from COVID and Avril is out and about again. It was lovely to see Jim and Joyce Neale at Jan and Bri's funeral.

COFFEE MORNINGS, WARM SPACE

The church is now open every Friday 10am - 2pm for refreshments, with soup and bread available between 12 and 1. Donations towards the cost, and offers of volunteers to help staff the sessions, would be very welcome – please see Roy or Heather.

MAGAZINE DONATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

There should be an envelope attached to this copy of the magazine. We hope that you will be able to contribute £6 which should cover the production costs for all issues in 2023. If you normally receive the magazine by post, the total cost to the church is around £10 per year. Please place the envelope in the normal offertory plate. Receiving the magazine by email will of course continue to be free (and has the advantage of better quality pictures and more in colour), but donations are always welcome!

NEWS JUST IN

Heather has received an email from Ruth Whitehead our Synod Moderator to say that she will be leaving the Synod at the end of March 2023, to go to a pastorate of 6 small chapels in Pembrokeshire. Ruth has been Synod Moderator for 10 years. Please pray for Ruth as she prepares to leave and take on this new role and for those who will be involved in due course with helping to appoint a new Synod Moderator.

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH: There are a number of people who rely on someone giving them a lift to get to church. Could you help?

**JANUARY CHURCH MEETING:
Sunday 15th Jan. 11.40am**

HARVEST

Grateful thanks from Torquay Community Larder for the gifts of food and money from our Harvest Festival service – and thanks to Bill Becher for transporting them to the Salvation Army HQ.

THE CURTAINS – ONE FOR ALL YOU CAT LOVERS

Herbie Doney

I'm just a silly playful old cat.
I upset most people wherever I'm at.
I climb trees and branches to sharpen my
claws,
Then see if I'm lucky in catching some birds!
But I know that it's naughty and I'd pay the price,
So I'll dig my sharp claws into something real nice!



HURTFUL WORDS

Herbie Doney

Have you ever broken someone's heart by hurtful words or deed?
And by our selfish manner said things we didn't mean?
Have you ever said you're sorry and tried to make amends?
For a hurting heart takes time to heal when hurtful words are said.

FROM AN ORDER OF SERVICE (FROM ANOTHER CHURCH) – CHEERS!

HYMN:

1 Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God
Fill my whole life with praise,
That my whole being may proclaim
Thy being and Thy ways.

2 Praise in my going out, O Lord,
And in my coming in;
Praise in each duty and each deed,
Now let my praise be gin.

MESSY CHURCH

Shirley Leaman

We had a noisy, happy and messy Messy Church last month. With a theme of 'Remember' all our activities reflected this. The children made polystyrene animals to remember a dog or cat they had lost. Beautiful poppies were made, poppy boxes decorated, amazing medals worn, a memory game, blowing huge bubbles, and decorating biscuits to look like paradise. We also made a big picture illustrating the things Jesus asked us to remember. Remember to forgive, to help, to tell others about Him and to love those who are unkind to us (that's a really tough one!)



It was great to welcome two new families.

And our youngest attendee was only six weeks old. How amazing is that!

For our worship time we remembered what poppies were for and thought about the many people who had died in wars. The children watched a video entitled "Remember Me" - a cartoon showing all the marvellous things which Jesus had done whilst living on earth as a man and how He came back to life after being crucified because He loves us all so much.

Following worship there were hot dogs and burgers, and our afternoon ended with some fireworks and sparklers. Who doesn't love a sparkler!

Our Christmas Messy Church will be on Friday 9th December. As one of our boys said "I love coming to Messy Church" - can you ask for any higher accolade!

A huge thank you to our lovely Alice for her generous donation to Messy Church. Alice was 100 in October (difficult to believe I know) and asked for donations instead of gifts. These were split between Messy Church and another charity. For many many years Alice has been so supportive of children's work at Furrough Cross and this was just another blessing she gave to us. Thank you SO much Alice and God bless you. With much love from the Messy Church Team xx

GOING BATTY AT THE MANSE?

Roy Cadoux

Regular readers might remember that last year we had an interesting visit of a bat in my bedroom. So this August we took part in the Devon Bat Survey, the results of which help Devon Biodiversity Records Centre work out how bats are using the landscape within the 'Saving Devon's Treescapes' core areas.

There are 18 species of bat in Britain and they all have different needs, so some are more likely to be found in dark, rural areas such as the greater horseshoe bat, and others are happy in towns and cities, like the common pipistrelle. All the bats in the UK eat insects, so they are great natural pest controllers!

We were loaned a 'bat detector' to put in the garden for 3 nights. Bats find their prey through echolocation - where the bat calls at a very high frequency (which most humans cannot hear, although children are sometimes able to) and listens for the return call as it bounces off an object. This helps them to build up a map of their surroundings and find their prey. It is these calls that the bat detector recorded, and many of these calls are distinctive to a particular bat, or a group of bats, allowing the experts to work out what species were detected.

We were amazed by the numbers recorded (which relate to the number of bat passes rather than the number of individual bats):

Species	No. of passes
Common pipistrelle	632
Myotis species	20
Serotine	17
Soprano pipistrelle	4
Long-eared bat	1



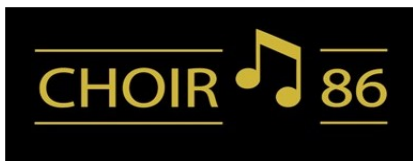
Common pipistrelles are the most common and widespread of all British bat species. They are found in lots of places, including towns and cities, as well as in the countryside. They are small, and their flight is fast and jerky as they pursue small insects which they catch and eat whilst flying. A single pipistrelle can consume up to 3,000 insects in one night!

The serotine is one of Britain's largest bat species and usually one of the first to appear in the evening. It has a leisurely flight style, with distinctive short glides, steep descents and circling over open areas. Serotines look for food over open habitats like pasture, parkland, woodland edge, tall hedgerow, over water bodies and will also hunt over streetlights in suburban areas.

WOLCUM YOLE !



A Ceremony of Carols and other works
presented by



Sunday 11th December, 15:00hrs
Furrough Cross URC,
Babbacombe Road, Torquay TQ1 3SB

It all starts here with *Choir 86*, come and enjoy singing along to your favourite carols, listen to some sparkling yuletide music, all to put you in the mood for the Christmas festivities.



Advance tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/choir86
or
contact@choir86.co.uk
also from **Paul Madge**

Adults £6.00
Over 60/NHS/Students £5.00

On the Door:

Adults £8.00
Over60/NHS/Students £7.00

CHRISTMAS CARDS: You are welcome to leave cards in the church pigeon holes, but please **only for people who come regularly to church**. **Sorry but we will not be able to deliver to people who are unable to pick their cards up.**

Clare and Peter wish all at Furrough Cross a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.



GIFT AID AND OFFERINGS

Roy Cadoux (*Gift Aid Coordinator*)

The ministry and mission of our church is almost entirely dependent financially on the generous giving of our members and friends. We do also gain significant income from users of our premises (thanks particularly to Ann Close who looks after hall lettings), but this all gets spent on the running and maintenance of the buildings.

These notes are intended to help you think about some ways in which you might be able to help the church's finances.

1 Please join our Freewill Offering envelope scheme which encourages you to put your offering in the weekly envelope even if you're unable to attend. Envelopes for 2023 will be available shortly.

2 Alternatively, consider paying your offering by Standing Order, for example monthly. Jenny can provide you with a simple form for your bank.

3 However you give, if you pay income tax, you can sign up for Gift Aid. If you need a form, or want to check whether you are already signed up, please contact me. (Note, if you have previously signed up for Gift Aid, but now no longer pay tax, you must let me know please.) Gift Aid doesn't cost you anything (and if you are a higher rate tax payer it benefits you), but it means the church gets an extra 25% from HMRC on everything that you give, so long as that amount is not more than what you pay in income tax and Capital Gains Tax.



giftaid it

4 If you're not a tax payer (or don't want to sign up for Gift Aid), we can still get help from HMRC so long as you pay in cash, as we get 25% back on 'small cash donations' (applies to each individual donation of no more than £30, and cash only, not cheques). This applies for example to money in the collection plate, cash in the envelopes from 'non-Gift Aid' people, and the donations jar.

5 Finally, you might consider including the church as a beneficiary in your will. You would make a real and lasting difference to the future of Furrough Cross URC.

Thank you for ongoing support during these tough times for everyone's finances, to ensure that we can continue to do Christ's work and be his witness in our local community.

A LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF UNITED REFORMED CHURCHES

Ian Hardie (URC National Treasurer) and

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

Dear Friends,

After 2 years of pandemic and lockdown, and Covid still with us (thankfully, for most, in a much weaker form), we can worship together in person and find fellowship again. But for most of us it is not simply a return to how it used to be; some people have not returned to church, some have died or become too frail, some churches have closed and others are considering it. Now we have significant European turmoil and its effect on fuel and food prices for us in the UK.

Thank God that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13.8). Whatever else changes, He is our rock, our cornerstone.

Financially, things were extremely tough for churches in 2021. Plate offerings had collapsed; some regular givers had to reduce or entirely stop giving to support God's work; and churches which hire out their premises had seen income from that source disappear. Even those churches where the majority of the giving was by standing order or bank transfer (if you have not considered regularising your giving in this way, please do – it helps your treasurer significantly) may have seen a 20% or greater drop in income.

If this had been replicated in giving to the Ministry & Mission (M&M) Fund in 2021, we might have been faced with a serious financial crisis last year.

But no, through the generosity of individuals, churches and Synods, we can report that income only fell by 4.4%. With a similar reduction in expenditure, the M&M Fund result was a deficit of only £80,000, a deficit that can be comfortably covered by reserves.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2021 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With churches and individuals under financial pressure, 2022 is not going to be an easy year either. The M&M Fund budgeted income (based on Synods' projections) will not be sufficient to cover expected costs and we are reconciled to dipping into our reserves more seriously as a result.

However, if we “ordinary Christians” are to fulfil the call of Jesus to be His witnesses in the world around us, we need ministers and other workers “on the ground” and we need shared resources which are often best created centrally. That all comes from the M&M Fund.

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

Pam and Shirley

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to our Christmas stocking appeal for orphaned children in Bulgaria. 36 stockings were filled, so that means 36 children will have a stocking to unpack from the congregation at Furrough Cross. We also received donations of over £70 to help with their transport. We know that Tara who, together with her husband, takes them personally to Bulgaria, will be thrilled.

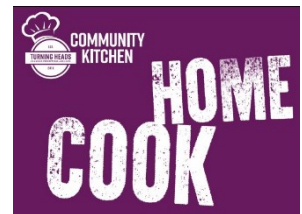
MESSY CHURCH FOOD DONATION BOX

Shirley Leaman

The lovely people at Furrough Cross are the most kind and generous! Thank you sooo much for all your donations to the Food Box for Messy Church. Each month we put your donations in the foyer of the Church so that if families need anything they can take it without any embarrassment. We are so happy when any of the food is taken and if it helps just one family then it's SO worth doing.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Meals are available from the new Community Kitchen set up by local charity Turning Heads at Victoria Park Methodist Church, St Marychurch Road. You can order pre-prepared, affordable and nutritious recipe menus to purchase and cook at home while following menu guidelines and cookery videos. Meals start from £2.50 for a one-day 2-course option for a couple.



PRIME MINISTER'S COUSIN AT FURROUGH CROSS – continued from October magazine

The Reverend John Eddowes Gladstone (JEG) continued to adopt a strongly Evangelical Protestant position throughout his long ministry, sternly resisting at every opportunity the influence of the Oxford Movement. He remained uncompromising, and eminently conservative in all his actions. He rejected ritualism and tradition within the church and 'it will be a surprise to no one to learn that there was no cross observable in his church, no floral decorations on the altar, and the services of an excellent choir and organist were little utilised'.

JEG himself provided written evidence that his own ministry in Wolverhampton was an energetic one. In a letter written in 1880 to the Bishop of Lichfield, he said '... we have five services, either in the Church or Rooms, every week ... the vicar and curate have divided these services between them ... we have a Scripture Reader partly supported by a Grant of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, partly by Messrs George and Henry Baker, and myself ... we have a most active, devoted and painstaking Bible woman, paid partly by subscriptions and to a very considerable extent, by myself ... we have 20 volunteer visitors and Tract distributors. Under my personal supervision and direction, we have two Mothers' meetings and Benefit Societies which meet twice a week for devotional exercises, Scripture and other profitable reading, for sewing, and paying in their money ... the aggregate number of these women whose husbands are of the labouring class is 200. I believe I am within the mark when I say there is no parish in this town or neighbour-hood which can compare with us in this respect. We have a Women's Burial Club consisting of about 200 members. We have good and flourishing Sunday Schools on both sides of the parish with a staff of 32 teachers. We have a Band of Hope with 120 juvenile members ...'

However JEG's relationship with the Bishop deteriorated badly and he accused the Bishop of setting in motion 'a fearful engine of episcopal injustice and tyranny'. He finally resigned his benefice at St. Matthew in 1889, at the age of 75 years, due to indifferent health. He lived in retirement with his family in Tettenhall until 1895. He spent the last six years of his life with Euphemia at Braunton, Devon, where he died in 1901 aged 87.

Most of the material in these articles has been adapted from
<http://www.historywebsite.co.uk/genealogy/Gladstone/gladstone.htm>

Brian Williams with Jaime and Paul earlier this year



PRAYER BREAKFASTS:

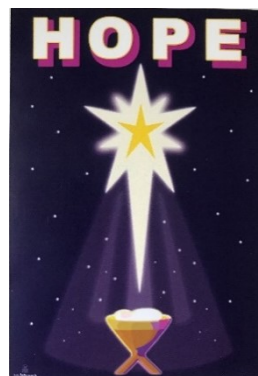
Food, fellowship, news and prayer.

Sat 3rd December 8.00 am at Upton Vale Baptist Church, followed by an opportunity to see the church's new development plans.

There is no Prayer Breakfast in **January**.

Sat 4th February 8.00 am at Central Church.

HOPE CHRISTMAS CARDS: Based on the beautiful 'HOPE' poster designed for us during Covid by local artist Becky Bettsworth, we have produced these cards which are available for £3 for a pack of five. Roy has a number of packs in stock. The message inside is *"May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of love at Christmas."*



UNITY SERVICE Sun 22nd January – details will be announced.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND'S 80th ANNIVERSARY

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) celebrates a significant milestone this year – it is 80 years since the founding of the British Council of Churches (BCC), the organisation that preceded CTBI, although the origin of the BCC dates back to 1890.

REMEMBERING...



Marcella Joan Board

'He will wipe every
tear from their eyes.'
Revelation 21:4

Joan Neville



Janet Williams
with Clare, Jenny and Beryl at the last Women's Friendship meal this year



THANK YOU FROM MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



Furrough Cross United Reformed Church, Macmillan's Coffee Morning is nothing without you. Thank you so much for donating a gift of **£114.00**.

We hope you felt proud as everyone came together to tuck into all those delicious treats. Whether it was with cake or savoury goodies, a cuppa or clinking glasses, you did something extraordinary.

Every penny raised will help Macmillan do whatever it takes for people living with cancer, as we continue to offer physical, financial and emotional support to those who need us.

Thanks especially to Marilyn for the lovely cakes she made for the event!



DROP ME ANOTHER LETTER - ANSWERS

Bath, York, Chard, Derby, Olney, Alton, Poole Dover, Truro, Leeds, Redcar, Arundel, Oundle, Hornsea, Chester, Reading, Preston, Andover, Burnley, Staines, Brighton.

Christmas activities at Furrough Cross



Friday 2nd December 2.30pm

First Friday Film

Film: 'Nativity', with festive refreshments. Free entry. Donations welcome to cover refreshments.



Saturday 3rd December 3.00pm

A Quiet Christmas Service

An opportunity for those who have lost loved ones to remember them, with carols and festive refreshments.

Saturday 10th December Manse Open House 10-12 and 2-5pm

Sunday 18th December 6.00pm Carols by Candlelight The Christmas story and favourite carols, with festive refreshments



(No Midweek Service on Wed 28th December)

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Communion

**Christmas Day 10.30am
Worship for Christmas Day**

And on Sunday 1st January 10.30am Communion Service